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For Immediate Release**May 2, 2014****PATHWAYS VERMONT GRANTED A CONDITIONAL SPECIAL SERVICES AGENCY (SSA) DESIGNATION**

Department of Mental Health Commissioner Paul Dupre announced today that Pathways Vermont will be given a conditional designation as a Specialized Services Agency (SSA) for Fiscal Year 2015 that begins July 1st. The Commissioner indicated that he has determined that Pathways "presents a housing and treatment option that is different from what the Designated Mental Health Agencies provide." This conditional SSA status will allow the Department of Mental Health to enter into an initial contract directly with Pathways, to ensure that they continue to provide services to eligible individuals who currently receive mental health treatment services from them, and at the same time undertake a full evaluation of the Pathway's capacity to meet all of the designated specialized service agency requirements in the upcoming months.